Member.—Mr. Kumaran Asan belongs to the mixed system. All the others are Marumakkathayees.

Mr. C. Krishnan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) said that he had brought up the question at the last session also, when the Dewan asked him whether the measure would be welcomed by the whole community. The community had already submitted a memorial from their common organisation, the S. N. D. P. Yogam, praying for a legislative enactment to regulate succession and marriage among them on the lines of the Nair Regulation. Among the members of the current session, one belonged to the mixed system and the others were Marumakkathayees, and they were present as the representatives of the respective sections of the community. The community felt aggrieved that, even after the passing of the Nair Regulation, the Government had not considered their request for a similar law favourably. He said that the whole community desired the law and that action should be taken by the Government without further delay.

[The Dewan then invited the opinions of the remaining Ezhava members and two of the visitors. All of them except Mr. K. Krishna Panikkan, Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara, supported the proposal. Mr. Krishna Panikkan said that he had no objection to the introduction of the law as the other members had strongly supported it, but that he felt bound to say that there would be some opposition also to the proposed measure.]

Dewan's reply.—I shall consider this question carefully. If the Government find that there is a very strong opinion in the community that a law should be introduced, they are prepared to undertake legislation. I wanted to say at once that the Government will certainly do so, but apparently there is some difference of opinion. There is one at least among you, even here, who is not wholly in favour of it. However, I shall consider it again and, probably before the session closes, I may be able to tell you the attitude of the Government in this matter.

35. Desirability of having a legislative enactment reducing the rate of interest on money debts.

Mr. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Pattanapuram taluk) said that Regulation I of 1010 M. E. fixed the interest awardable by civil courts at 12 per cent. per annum where the documents did not stipulate otherwise. The condition of the ryots had everywhere changed since the year 1010, and the same rate of interest prevailed among them even now. It was the agricultural section of the people that suffered most from the high rate of interest. The Member therefore prayed that a law might be passed fixing the maximum rate of interest awardable at 7½ per cent. per annum.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

36. Desirability of amending the Nair Regulation so as to allow individual partition and Makkathayam.

Mr. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) said that, on a perusal of the depositions of the members of his community before the Marumakkathayam commission, it would be clear that the majority were in favour of partition. Even some of those, who did not favour partition then, had partitioned their properties subsequently. Under the present system there could be no individual responsibility or individual credit. Want of individual responsibility would cause the mismanagement of the tarwad property by a Karnavan, as its improvement under him would not benefit him. Want of individual credit deprived the capacity of individual members to work for themselves independently of the tarwad. However wealthy a tarwad might be, its members had no individual credit. They could therefore enter no walk of life requiring personal credit. It was particularly noticeable in the formation of co-operative societies, as a member of a Nair tarwad could not become a member of a rural society. Trade and other industries were therefore practically closed to them. Education among them was declining. It was therefore necessary to amend the Nair Regulation allowing individual partition and Makkathayam.

Dewan.—If Makkathayam is to be enforced, will not female members lose all

Member.—Under no law have women any rights to property.

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Dewan.—Do you want full Makkathayam, *i. e.*, would you exclude daughters who, under the Hindu Law, do not inherit except to a limited extent?

Member.—These are details which could be settled when the Bill is drafted.

The Member then quoted the opinion expressed by eminent men to the effect that Marumakkathayam was injurious to the community and prayed that the law might be amended as suggested by him.

Mr. T. S. Madhavan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Changanachery) said that the Karnavan had no responsibility in educating the minor members of the tarwad even where the income admitted of expenditure in such useful directions. Under Section 10 of the Nair Regulation, the wife and minor children were entitled to maintenance, but they could not now *claim* it from the tarwad property. The provision was thus inoperative. He therefore prayed that the Regulation might be amended so as to allow individual partition. The Member added that he did not want Makkathayam.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

37. Desirability of allowing individual partition to a Nair tarwad when there is no female member surviving.

Mr. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel taluk) said that his proposal was that, when there were no female members in a tarwad, the male members should have the liberty by law to partition the property among them. If any of the latter were to die before partition, his share should go to his wife and children. If partition was not made, the wife and children of the last surviving member alone would inherit the whole property. Replying to the Dewan, the Member said that he was not in favour of general partition and that his scheme did not include cases in which the last surviving members included one or more females past the age of child-bearing.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

38. Repeal of the Canals and Ferries Regulation.

Mr. Ouseph Chacko (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) dwelt at length on the difficulties of the ryots of Kuttanad as the land was wholly under water during the greater part of the year. The use of boats was an inevitable necessity with them to allow them to move about from house to house. Each individual therefore possessed one small boat. In the cultivation season necessaries of life were transported in a boat. The children went to the school every day in a boat. Water for drinking purposes was brought in a boat. Under such circumstances, he compared the necessity for registering their boats to that of registering the feet of persons in other parts of the State, on the ground that they used them for moving about.

The Canals and Ferries Regulation had not its parallel in the Codes of other States. The necessity for such a law in Travancore was not evident. The Regulation had its operation only on the main waterway that stretched right across from the orthernmost extremity of Travancore to the confines of Trivandrum in the south nd on the approaches to most of the important towns of the State. About 90% of those waterways was the gift of nature and the outlay on the remaining portion was insignificant when compared with the cost of construction and maintenance of public roads in other parts of the State. The damage done to a waterway by the plying of boats was comparatively *nil*. The revenue derived by the Government under the Regulation was very small and was out of all proportion to the worry and trouble caused to the people. The tax on *valloms* could not be easily collected, the cost of collection was not low, the tax was not definite and capable of easy verification; in fact every canon of taxation was violated by the impost. He urged that the Regulation itself was unworkable. The exemption allowed in favour of private boats had no material advantages. The boundary line between private boats and boats plying for hire was indistinguishable and depended mainly on the discretion of the authorities. He next dealt with the difficulties of the free pass system and quoted instances in which the working of the system turned out to be detrimental to the interests of

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